DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 048 255 TE 002 223

AUTHOR	Cohen, Ruth
TITLE	Asian Literature (Level One).
INSTITUTION	New England Association of Teachers of English, Burlington, Vt.
PUB DATE	Nov 70
NOTE	4p.
JOURNAL CIT	Leaflet; v69 n4 p19, 21-3 Nov 1970
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	Chinese, Course Content, *Course Descriptions, Indians, Japanese, Literature, *Non Western Civilization, Secondary Education, World Literature

ABSTRACT

As an introduction to Asian literature, this course guide explores the literatures of Japan, China, and India. Included are (1) a course description with a suggested time schedule of activities; (2) recommendations for necessary student achievement level; (3) course objectives; and (4) listings of materials (e.g., books, records, slides, films, and a teacher bibliography.) (JMC)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

The Leaflet, Vol. 69, No. 4, November 1970.

ED048255

ASIAN LITERATURE

(Level One)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Through a study of Asian literature the student will become more aware of distinctive characteristics of Western civilization through the examination of a foreign culture through poetry, drama, and fiction. By studying another culture, the student can develop a new knowledge about his own cultural heritage. Japanese, Chinese, and Indian literature will be the three strands of the non-Western world which will be woven into the pattern of the course.

ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL

The student should be reading at or above grade lelvel. In addition to recognizing the author's theme, tone, point of view, and the like, the student should be able to read critically and appraise the literary quality of a work. He should be highly motivated to read and read extensively.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop in the student an awareness that one should be cautious about accepting stereotyped notions about foreign peoples.
2. To guide the student to see the common humanity of man amidst cultural deversities in the world.
3. To help student recognize a different scale of values in a non-Western society.
4. To develop the student's concern and empathy for other peoples.
5. To indicate the inter-relationships between language and culture.
6. To study non-Western cultures for their own sakes and thus see the richness of human thought and life.

TE 002 223

CHIEF EMPHASIS

To make the student aware of the rich fabric of non-Western liiterature in order to better understand and appreciate the Eastern culture.

Materials

The Penquin Book of Japanese Verse
Thousand Cranes—Yasunari Kawabata
Snow Country—Yasunari Kawabata
The Genius of the Oriental Theater
A Treasury of Modern Asian Stories
Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology
Nectar in a Sieve—Markandaya
The Guide—Narayan
The White Pony
The Housewarming and Other Selected Writing—Rabindranath Tagore

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
the New England Assn of Teachers of English
TO ERIC AND ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION. FURTHER REPRODUCTION OUTSIDE THE ERIC SYSTEM REQUIRES PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER."

Copyright 1970 by the New England Association of Teachers of English.

Seven Japanese Tales—Tanizaki
Ukiyo: Stories of Postwar Japan
Bhowani Junction—John Masters
Bugle and a Tiger
Dream of the Red Chamber—Tsao Hsueh-Chin
After the Banquet—Yukio Mishima
Burmese Days—George Orwell
Golden Casket
Going Home to India—Samtha Roma Rau

Course Description

Week 1 — Just as we must understand Greek gods in order to appreciate Greek mythology so we must acquire some understanding of Oriental religions in order to better appreciate Oriental literature. A few days of lecture and notetaking on the religions of India, China and Japan should be followed by Mr. Ehman's tape on Asian religions.
(*The World's Living Religions* by Bahm is an excellent resource for the teacher. This is not a theology book but rather a book that provides excellent thumbnail sketches of all the religions of the countries to be studied.)

Weeks 2–3 — Introduce *A Passage to India.* Forster's book is a passage to more than India since it explores the relationships and the dissonance between the ancient and enduring patterns of Indian civilization and the more "advanced" patterns of the west. Students should be assigned a paper during this time. (Some suggestions: "The Indian landscape as an essential force in the novel", "Social and Political elements in "A Passage to India". "With man's limitations, can East and West meet?")

Weeks 4–7 — Continue study of novels, *Nectar in a Sieve, The Guide, Bhowani Junction, Burmese Days,* there will not be time to discuss all of these in class. One or two may be assigned as outside reading at the teacher's discretion.

Week 8 — Some readings from Indian Short Stories and drama, as time allows.

Weeks 9–15 — Beginning with a review of Japanese religions, progress to the poetry, the short story, drama and the novel. It might be expedient to divide the class into groups and assign each group one of three novels for a seminar presentation. Background material for the Japanese Novel should be presented by the teacher as a kick off lecture. An emphasis should be made on the choice of literary form as a rellection of the culture.

Weeks 16–18 Again, a brief review of Chinese religions would be helpful. Follow this by a close reading of *Dream of the Red Chamber* with a discussion of the sentimental novel of the Mauchu dynasty. Short stories and poetry will follow. (Dr. Chov's tape can be used to good advantage here.)

Weeks 19–20 Although students will have been writing papers all along, these two weeks should be devoted to seminar presentations of assigned term papers. These papers should be comparative studies, either *between* two countries or among three countries, concentrating on a single genre. (Drama, poetry, short story)

Suggested Approaches and Teaching Aids

Use film as a cultural background because this *is* a literature course. The emphasis should, of course, be on literature but clearly as tied to culture.

Records

The Ragas of Indian
Chinese Class
Traditional Folk Songs of Japan

Slides

Japan: A History in Art (Set 50 slides)

Films

Ikiru
Japanese Village Life
Japan—East is West
China—The Old and the New
Ganges River
Tagore
Anatahan
The Good Earth
Ugetsu
Pather Panchall
Munna

Teacher's Bibliography

The World's Living Religions—Archie J. Bahm
Chinese Literature—Odile Kaltcnmark
Japanese Literature—Louis Renou
Two tapes—Dr. Chow and Dr. Ehinou
Indian Literature—Louis Renov

This course, currently taught at Northampton High School, was developed by Ruth Cohen.

SELECTED NAL BOOKS IN ASIAN STUDIES

VIETNAM: History, Documents, and Opinions on a Major World Crisis
Marvin E. Gettleman, ed.
This book provides the historical background on Vietnam and her people.
MJ1059, $1.95

Shankara's CREST-JEWEL OF DISCRIMINATION
The unique Jnana Yoga teachings of India's beloved Shankara provide the Western reader with an ideal introduction to the mysteries and rewards of Hindu philosophy. MQ1054, $.95

THE MENTOR BOOK OF MODERN ASIAN LITERATURE
Dorothy Blair Shimer, ed.
A unique opportunity to become acquainted with the poetry, fiction and essays of India, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Korea, Japan and the Philippines. Bibliography. MW961, $1.50

A TREASURY OF ASIAN LITERATURE
John D. Youhannan, ed.
A collection of Asian classics spanning 2500 years and encompassing China, India, Arabia, Iran, and Japan. Bibliography. Chronology. (432 pp.) MY1063, $1.50

ANATOMY OF CHINA: An Introduction to One Quarter of Mankind
Dick Wilson
A balanced, authoritative report on Red China considering social, cultural, economic and political policies followed by the government. Appendix. Notes. Index. (304 pp.) MY929, $1.25

ASIA IN THE MODERN WORLD
Helen Matthew, ed.
Prominent authorities study the people, culture, and political history of Asia and provide the background needed to understand its decisive role in the shaping of world events today. Illustrated. Bibliography. Index. (288 pp.) MQ762, $.95

THE CHANGING SOCIETY OF CHINA (Rev. 1969)
Ch'u Chai and Winberg Chai
A complete revision of the authors' important survey of China from its remote past to the present day including an analysis of the Nationalist Chinese regime on Taiwan. (215 pp.) MY938, $1.25

Examination copies and college catalog available on request.

NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY—TIMES MIRROR
Education Division
120 Woodbine Street, Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621